



Gold Coast District Golf Association

Players, Caddies & Spectators

Code of Conduct – Conditions of Play

This Code of Conduct forms part of the **Conditions of Play** for all Gold Coast District Golf Association (GCDGA) competitions and applies to **players, caddies, team officials, managers, supporters and spectators**.

Failure to comply with this Code may result in **penalties, sanctions, suspension or disqualification**, as determined by the GCDGA Match Committee.

1. Spirit of the Game – Players

All players must conduct themselves in accordance with **Rule 1.2a – Standards of Player Conduct**, which requires players to act in the spirit of the game by:

- **Acting with integrity**
 - Following the Rules
 - Applying penalties correctly
 - Being honest in all aspects of play
- **Showing consideration to others**
 - Playing at a prompt pace
 - Ensuring the safety of others
 - Avoiding behaviour that distracts or interferes with another player
- **Taking good care of the course**
 - Replacing divots
 - Repairing pitch marks
 - Raking bunkers
 - Avoiding unnecessary damage to the course

The GCDGA Committee considers any conduct contrary to these principles to be **unacceptable and not in keeping with the traditions and values of the game of golf**.

2. Unacceptable Behaviour

Examples of unacceptable behaviour include, but are not limited to:

- Abusive, intimidating or aggressive language or actions
- Unsporting conduct directed at players, officials or spectators
- Disrespect toward match officials or volunteers

- Deliberate distraction of an opponent
- Conduct intended to gain an unfair advantage
- Failure to comply with a direction from a GCDGA official

Where a breach of Rule 1.2 is observed, **immediate action may be taken** by the Match Committee without warning.

3. Caddies

Caddies must comply with **Rules 10.2 and 10.3** of the Rules of Golf.

- A caddie may provide advice and assistance **only to the player for whom they are caddying**
- A player who has completed their round on the same day may act as a caddie for another player in that competition, in accordance with Rule 10.3a/2
- Once acting as a caddie, that individual must comply fully with all caddie restrictions under the Rules of Golf

Any breach of caddie conduct rules may result in penalties being applied to the player concerned.

4. Spectators, Supporters & Team Officials

Spectators and supporters are encouraged to support their club in a **respectful and sportsmanlike manner**.

The following conditions apply:

- Only **players, their caddies, designated team managers and authorised GCDGA officials** are permitted within:
 - Teeing areas
 - Fairways
 - Putting greens
- Spectators and supporters:
 - Must always remain clear of play
 - Must not enter tees, fairways or putting greens
 - Must not communicate with players or caddies during a match
 - Must not provide advice or instructions
- Spectators may assist as **ball spotters only**, without offering advice
- Boisterous or disruptive behaviour that may influence play or provide an advantage to any player is **strictly prohibited**

Players are responsible for the behaviour of their caddies and associated supporters.

5. Social Media

The GCDGA recognises the positive role of social media in promoting golf.

However, the use of social media to:

- Bully
- Abuse
- Intimidate
- Harass
- Make offensive or defamatory comments

will not be tolerated.

Any breach may result in **disciplinary action, including suspension or exclusion from competition.**

6. Mobile Phones & Electronic Devices

- Mobile phones must be **switched off or set to silent** during play
- Use of mobile phones by players or caddies during a match is not permitted unless authorised by the Match Committee

Penalties:

- First breach: **General Penalty (loss of hole)**
- Subsequent breach: **Disqualification**

7. Enforcement

The GCDGA Match Committee reserves the right to:

- Investigate any reported or observed breach
- Impose penalties in accordance with the Rules of Golf
- Remove any individual from the course
- Suspend or disqualify players or teams where appropriate.
- All decisions of the Match Committee are final.